

What is claimed is:

1. A conditional access system comprising:

a content providing apparatus for transmitting a content to which only a receiver under contract for satellite TV subscriptions can have an access;

a plurality of relay stations for receiving and retransmitting the content transmitted from the content providing apparatus; and

a receiver for receiving the content retransmitted from one of the plurality of relay stations,

wherein the receiver includes:

a station identifier holding unit operable to hold a station identifier for identifying the relay station with which the receiver is under the contract for satellite TV subscriptions;

a station identifier reception unit operable to receive a station identifier transmitted from the relay station;

a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the received station identifier and the station identifier held in the station identifier holding unit match; and

a relocation-between-stations information transmission unit operable to transmit relocation-between-stations information to the content providing apparatus, when the judgment unit judges that the received station identifier and the station identifier held in the station identifier holding unit do not match, said relocation-between-stations information including a receiver identifier which identifies the receiver.

2. The conditional access system according to Claim 1,

wherein the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information to the content providing apparatus, said relocation-between-stations information including, in addition to the receiver identifier, the station identifier received by the station

identifier reception unit.

3. The conditional access system according to Claim 2,
wherein the relocation-between-stations information
5 transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations
information addressed to the content providing apparatus to the
relay station from which the station identifier has been transmitted,
and

the relay station receives the relocation-between-stations
10 information addressed to the content providing apparatus, which is
transmitted from the receiver, and transmits the received
relocation-between-stations information to the content providing
apparatus.

15 4. The conditional access system according to Claim 3,
wherein the content providing apparatus includes:
a reception unit operable to receive the relocation-between-
stations information transmitted from the relay station; and
a message transmission unit operable to transmit an
20 Entitlement Management Message (EMM) for urging the receiver to
sign up for a contract with the relay station indicated by the station
identifier included in the relocation-between-stations information,
said receiver being indicated by the receiver identifier included in
the received relocation-between-stations information.

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5. The conditional access system according to Claim 3.
wherein the content providing apparatus includes:
a reception unit operable to receive the relocation-between-
stations information transmitted from the relay station; and
30 a usage control unit operable to transmit a content with
limited usage to the receiver indicated by the receiver identifier
included in the received relocation-between-stations information.

6. The conditional access system according to Claim 1,
wherein the relay station includes a station identifier
transmission unit operable to transmit, to the receiver, a station
identifier which self-identifies said relay station, and
5 the receiver further includes a station identifier storage unit
operable to receive the station identifier transmitted from the relay
station when a power is off at the receiver, and store the received
station identifier in the station identifier holding unit.
- 10 7. The conditional access system according to Claim 6,
wherein the station identifier transmission unit transmits the
station identifier using Engineering Transport Stream
(Engineering-TS).
- 15 8. The conditional access system according to Claim 1,
wherein the receiver further includes an IC card reading unit
operable to read out an IC card identifier from a detachable IC card,
and
the relocation-between-stations information transmission
20 unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information in which
the IC card identifier read out by the IC card reading unit serves as
the receiver identifier.
- 25 9. The conditional access system according to Claim 1,
wherein the receiver further includes a content usage history
management unit operable to store, onto a detachable IC card,
content usage history information indicating a content usage history
of the receiver, read out the content usage history information from
the IC card, and transmit the read-out content usage history
30 information to the content providing apparatus, and
the relocation-between-stations information transmission
unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information when

the usage history information is transmitted to the content providing apparatus.

10. The conditional access according to Claim 1,
5 wherein the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information with an address indicated in an identifier of the content providing apparatus, which is notified in advance by the content providing apparatus using EMM.

10 11. The conditional access system according to Claim 1,
wherein the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information addressed to the content providing apparatus to the
15 relay station from which the station identifier has been transmitted, and

the relay station transmits information including the relocation-between-stations information transmitted from the receiver and a self-identifying station identifier for identifying said
20 relay station, as new relocation-between-stations information.

12. The conditional access system according to Claim 1,
wherein the content providing apparatus is a Headend In The Sky (HITS) station for distributing the content to the plurality of the
25 relay stations using a satellite communication, and

each of the relay stations is a CATV station for retransmitting the content distributed from the content providing apparatus to the receiver via a cable.

30 13. The conditional access system according to Claim 12,
wherein the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations

information addressed to the content providing apparatus to the relay station via the cable, and

the relay station transmits the relocation-between-stations information addressed to the content providing apparatus, which is transmitted from the receiver, to the content providing apparatus via a bi-directional communication network.

14. A receiver in a conditional access system comprising:

a content providing apparatus for transmitting a content to which only a receiver under contract for satellite TV subscriptions can have an access;

a plurality of relay stations for receiving and retransmitting the content transmitted from the content providing apparatus; and

a receiver for receiving the content retransmitted from one of the plurality of relay stations,

wherein the receiver includes:

a station identifier holding unit operable to hold a station identifier for identifying the relay station with which the receiver is under the contract for satellite TV subscriptions;

a station identifier reception unit operable to receive a station identifier transmitted from the relay station;

a judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the received station identifier and the station identifier held in the station identifier holding unit match; and

a relocation-between-stations information transmission unit for transmitting relocation-between-stations information to the content providing apparatus, when the judgment unit judges that the received station identifier and the station identifier held in the station identifier holding unit do not match, said relocation-between-stations information including a receiver identifier which identifies the receiver.

15. The receiver according to Claim 14,
wherein the relocation-between-stations information
transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations
information to the content providing apparatus, said
5 relocation-between-stations information including, in addition to
the receiver identifier, the station identifier received by the station
identifier reception unit.

16. The receiver according to Claim 15,
10 wherein the relocation-between-stations information
transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations
information addressed to the content providing apparatus to the
relay station from which the station identifier has been transmitted,
and

15 the relay station receives the relocation-between-stations
information addressed to the content providing apparatus, which is
transmitted from the receiver, and transmits the received
relocation-between-stations information to the content providing
apparatus.

20 17. The receiver according to Claim 14,
wherein the relay station includes a station identifier
transmission unit operable to transmit a station identifier which self-
identifies said relay station, and

25 the receiver further includes a station identifier storage unit
operable to receive the station identifier transmitted from the relay
station when a power is off at the receiver, and store the received
station identifier in the station identifier holding unit.

30 18. The receiver according to Claim 14,
wherein the receiver further includes an IC card reading unit
operable to read out an IC card identifier from a detachable IC card,

and

the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information in which the IC card identifier read out by the IC card reading unit serves as the receiver identifier.

19. The receiver according to Claim 14,

wherein the receiver further includes a content usage history management unit operable to store, onto a detachable IC card, a history of content used by the receiver, read out the content usage history information from the IC card and transmit the read-out content usage history information to the content providing apparatus, and

the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information when the content usage history information is transmitted to the content providing apparatus.

20. The receiver according to Claim 14,

wherein the relocation-between-stations information transmission unit transmits the relocation-between-stations information with an address indicated in an identifier of the content providing apparatus, which is notified in advance by the content providing apparatus using EMM.

21. A relocation-between-stations management method for managing a relocation of a receiver between stations in a conditional access system comprising:

a content providing apparatus for transmitting a content to which only a receiver under contract for satellite TV subscriptions can have an access;

a plurality of relay stations for receiving and retransmitting

the content transmitted from the content providing apparatus; and
a receiver for receiving the content retransmitted from one of
the relay stations,

wherein the receiver includes:

5 a station identifier holding unit operable to hold a station
identifier for identifying the relay station with which the receiver is
under the contract for satellite TV subscriptions,

the relocation-between-stations management method
includes:

10 a station identifier reception step of receiving a station
identifier transmitted from the relay station;

a judgment step of judging whether or not the received
station identifier and the station identifier held in the station
identifier holding unit match; and

15 a relocation-between-stations information transmission step
of transmitting relocation-between-stations information to the
content providing apparatus, when it is judged that the received
station identifier and the station identifier held in the station
identifier holding unit do not match, said
20 relocation-between-stations information including a receiver
identifier which identifies the receiver.

22. A program for managing a relocation of a receiver between
stations in a conditional access system comprising:

25 a content providing apparatus for transmitting a content to
which only a receiver under contract for satellite TV subscriptions
can have an access;

a plurality of relay stations for receiving and retransmitting
the content transmitted from the content providing apparatus; and

30 a receiver for receiving the content retransmitted from one of
the relay stations,

wherein the receiver includes a station identifier holding unit

operable to hold a station identifier for identifying the relay station with which the receiver is under the contract for satellite TV subscriptions, and

the program includes:

5 a station identifier reception step of receiving a station identifier transmitted from the relay station;

 a judgment step of judging whether or not the received station identifier and the station identifier held in the station identifier holding unit match;

10 a relocation-between-stations information transmission step of transmitting relocation-between-stations information to the content providing apparatus, said relocation-between-stations information including a receiver identifier which identifies the receiver.